

January 31, 1958

Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner
(Vice-President of the International
Coordinating Committee for the
International Geophysical Year)
Associated Universities, Inc.
10 Columbus Circle
New York 19, New York

Dear Dr. Berkner:

I am enclosing an advance copy of a memorandum which is being, for the moment, privately circulated. I have no doubt that more formal representations will be forth coming from professional societies and others.

To be sure, you must have more urgent problems, administrative, political, and technical which relate to the rocket program. Nevertheless, there is no reason that purely scientific applications should be submerged, and I feel myself that biology has an important stake, no less than the physical sciences.

As you must have thought yourself contamination is not an exclusive concern for biology, though this is possibly more sensitive to it. We ought to be on guard against large scale chemical contamination, especially by radio-active isotopes, if the scientific values of ultimate lunar research are to be conserved. You know yourself what is happening to C¹⁴ dating now.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew

cc - Dr. Maurice Ewing
(Chairman, Committee on Geophysics, NRC)

[enc:Q-37]